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McManus working to save 400 Cadillac jobs

LANSING – Legislation that would keep 400 manufacturing jobs in Cadillac is on its way to the full Senate after being passed out of committee, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

Senate Bill 798, sponsored by McManus, would create a rural retention credit within the Michigan Economic Growth Authority. This credit would be available to rural businesses with more than 300 employees that are at risk of being closed and the work being sent out-of-state. In the situation in Cadillac, it would allow a group of investors to purchase the Hayes Lemmerz facility and keep it in operation.

“Saving 400 jobs is a top priority at the moment, and I want to make sure the state is providing these investors with every available tool to keep this facility running,” McManus said. “It would be devastating to the workers, families and the city if this facility were to close. Ensuring access to MEGA’s tax credit program is a sensible and easy thing to do to keep these jobs in our community.”

Hayes Lemmerz International, a worldwide supplier of auto parts, currently operates the facility, but is looking to close or sell the Cadillac foundry due to financial difficulties. With this new tax credit, the group of investors will be able to buy the plant and maintain current operations under a new name.

The bill was reported out of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee. It will be taken up by the full Senate next week.

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